



News Release

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Work begins on Camp Simms investigation

Baltimore – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, officials announced today that on-site activities began this week for a limited investigation at the former Camp Simms site in southeast Washington, DC. This new investigation is being conducted in support of a planned development at the site to ensure the safety of workers and future residents.

The work involves investigation of approximately six acres adjacent to Mississippi Avenue. The work will consist of excavating by hand anomalies (magnetic objects) buried in this area. Mobilization activities began Oct. 9, including installing a trailer with supporting utilities, and conducting a survey of the site. Geophysical mapping is expected to begin next week, with digging of the anomalies immediately following. On site work should be complete in about three weeks.

“The former Camp Simms site was used as a small arms target range by the military and local law enforcement organizations until 1959. The Corps conducted an ordnance investigation at the site in 1995. In that investigation, 98 percent of the site was geophysically surveyed, and nearly 200 suspect items were excavated. No ordnance-related items were found. The area has been extensively developed and re-developed over the years, and is littered with construction debris and abandoned utilities.

Although previous work indicated there were no hazards at the site, the Corps conducted a re-evaluation of the site based on a request from D.C. Health that followed Mayor Anthony Williams’ announced plans for a mixed-use commercial and residential development at Camp Simms last May. The re-evaluation did not confirm any hazards, but recommended further investigation to verify the Corps’ previous findings. A final report on the investigation is expected in December.

The Corps’ investigation is part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites, which is an Army responsibility.

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